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House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SB1425
By Gilbert

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 12, Chapter 7, relative to the use of alkaline paper in the printing and/or publication of state records and documents.

WHEREAS, nearly 80 million books in North American research libraries are threatened with destruction because they are printed on acidic paper; and

WHEREAS, surveys confirm that "slow fires", triggered by the acids in the paper, are spreading through most research libraries and other depositories of public records and documents, breaking down the cellulose fibers that give paper its structural strength and causing the paper to become dark and brittle; and

WHEREAS, not only are books endangered, but also maps, historically significant documents, archival records and other public records and documents; and

WHEREAS, the catastrophic implications of this problem for scholarship and for society is the loss of significant portions of distinctive research representing this nation's intellectual heritage and the loss of large parcels of our governmental history as represented by archival records and other public records and documents; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 12, Chapter 7, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 7 inclusive of this act as a new, appropriately designated part.

SECTION 2. The general assembly finds and declares that the use of alkaline paper for the publication of state records and documents of enduring value is a social and moral imperative to preserve our collective knowledge and heritage for the future. To this end, the general assembly declares it to be the public policy of the state of Tennessee to utilize alkaline paper in the printing and/or publication of permanent state records and documents whenever feasible.

SECTION 3. Effective January 1, 2000, each department, board, commission, agency or other entity of state government, including state institutions of higher education, shall use alkaline paper that meets or exceeds the American National Standards Institute standard for permanent paper for printed library materials (ANSI Z39.48), as approved by the state publications committee, for the printing or publication of all permanent state records or documents.

SECTION 4. The state publications committee established at Title 12, Chapter 7, Part 1, is charged with the responsibility of administering and enforcing the provisions of this part. The state publications committee shall provide to each department, board, commission, agency or other entity of state government an approved list of alkaline papers that meet or exceed the standard for permanent paper established in Section 3.

SECTION 5. Nothing in the provisions of this part shall be construed to supersede Section 20-6-103. To the extent that this part is in conflict with Section 20-6-103, the provisions of Section 20-6-103 shall control.

SECTION 6. The state publications committee is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 7. The general assembly further urges and encourages all county governments, municipal governments and other local governmental entities to utilize alkaline paper that meets the ANSI Z39.48 standard when such governments print and/or publish public records and documents of enduring value.

SECTION 8. For the purpose of promulgating rules and regulations and beginning implementation of its provisions, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For purposes of enforcement and mandatory use of alkaline paper, this act shall take effect January 1, 2000.